

ADAM'S HOUSE IN PARADISE

Lower East Side, Manhattan

August 10, 1984

Dear Architects:

STOREFRONT's exhibition, "Adam's Paradise in Paradise: Lower East Side, Manhattan", is on schedule to open on September 13. We eagerly await your drawings which should arrive here by September 1.

The catalogue is also underway. Art critics, Ted Castle and Patricia Phillips, will write the main essays about Adam, the garden and the city. Lucy Lippard has contributed a short essay that will also appear in the Village Voice. Kyong and I will write a history of the political activities and observations. Adam will contribute an essay and his redesign of the housing project.

Administrative Information

1. Invitation/Poster will be available at STOREFRONT on August 25. We will mail them to architects outside New York. New Yorkers please pick them up here.
2. Provide us with a dollar value of your drawing for our insurance. If you wish to sell your work, please provide a minimum selling price. I assume the insurance price is the value you wish to sell at. STOREFRONT requests a donation of 25% the sales price when sold at STOREFRONT.
3. We would like to hold the drawings until January 1, 1985. Hopefully a second showing of the work can happen in November if the garden has not been saved by that time. The second show will occur in a space that attracts the general public rather than the art and architecture community.

Media

1. National Television News- WCNN-TV
2. National Public Radio - NPR
3. New York Papers - Daily News, NY Post, New York Times, Village Voice, Villager, Washington Market Review, East Village Eye.
4. Reuters News Service
5. New Yorkers - We need help securing major articles with photographs in the New York Times, New York Magazine, The New Yorker and Public Television. If you know anyone please contact them.

Politics

1. Two demonstrations at the garden
2. Won a three day restraining order to stop the demolition of the buildings behind the garden. After the three days the Superior Court judge ruled against our case and did not grant a 30 day restraining order and full hearing. Adam's lawyer argued first that the city did not follow the correct legal procedures when approving the site. Second, he argued that Adam owned the land under the garden. A still followed English Common Law gives ownership to anyone who cultivates or improves abandoned land for ten years without the legal owner taking action.
3. STOREFRONT met with Pete Grannis, Chairman of the NY State Assembly Committee on Housing. Assemblyman Grannis has set-up a meeting between Housing Authority Chairman, Joseph Christian, STOREFRONT and himself for the 14th of August. This will be the first meeting that a politician has confronted Housing Authority.
4. All appropriate politicians have been sent STOREFRONT's five minute redesign of the currently approved design. Both the Director of Design for H.A. and the architect of the project agree that the skeme is realistic and will cause little cost increase or time delay. So far, none of these politicians are willing to come to a press conference to endorse the change. More media attention from the Times, New Yorker, etc. is required for their support.
5. The Housing Authority still maintains publicly that any redesign would mean the loss of all federal H.U.D. money. But H.U.D. told STOREFRONT that Housing Authority can redesign the project as long as a contract is signed by the end of January. The architect of the project confirmed STOREFRONT's opinion that the drawings could be easily altered to save the garden and meet the H.U.D. deadline. The matter seems to be in the hands of a few individuals who have willfully decided to ignore the garden. Hopefully, National Geographic will educate them.

Your architectural solutions are mandatory components in raising the public, press and political support to save the garden. Lucy Lippard, NY art critic, will publish in the Village Voice that we have a better chance than most architectural exhibits at convincing the public.

"Architectural exhibitions tend to be rather dry and heavy on detail, revealing little to the layperson about the experience of the spaces they describe. This show should be an exception because one can take the ten-minute walk from gallery to garden (and back), visualizing change from a base in reality."

All the architects in this exhibition have the capacity to produce convincing visions. STOREFRONT expects the best.



Glenn Weiss

ADAM'S HOUSE IN PARADISE

Lower East Side, Manhattan

Dear Invited Architects:

STOREFRONT hopes you have received our exhibition package for Adam's House in Paradise: Lower East Side, Manhattan. If you have not responded, please review the package again and write STOREFRONT by August 9, 1984.

Progress has been made toward saving the Garden of Eden since July 7, when the invitations were mailed.

Media

1. National Television News - WCNN-TV
2. National Public Radio - NPR
3. New York Papers - Daily News, Village Voice, Villager, Washington Market Review
4. Commitments for next 3 weeks - New York Times, Village Voice, Reuters News Service, In These Times

Politics

1. Demonstration at garden
2. Temporary halting to demolition of buildings behind the garden.
3. Discussions with Peter Granis, Chairman of NY State Assembly Committee on Housing; James McCullar, architect of the housing project; Richard Rosenthal, director of design for Housing Authority; Congressman Bill Green.

Major Obstacles

Squatter's Rights - Adam Purple and The Garden of Eden must be indentified as a special situation; a situation which cannot be applied to any other squatter's garden in the city.

Public Access - A public entrance for the garden must be planned from Elridge Street. This may require making an opening in the existing stone wall. Additionally, walking paths that connect the various project buildings may require the destruction of a couple of segments of the plantings.

Control of Garden - An organization must assume the future demands of garden maintainence in case Adam Purple can no longer work the garden. This organization will either by Housing Authority, the Parks Department, or an independent trust fund administered by a respected Board of Directors.

Your architectural solutions are mantory components in raising the public support to overcome these obstacles. The city government and general public require alternatives to the vision presented by Housing Authority in order to recognise the real possibility and benefits of a co-existing garden and housing project. All the architects invited have the capacity to produce a convincing vision. STOREFRONT hopes you will send us your solution which provides a chose for our future.

The Exhibition

All major American architectural and art magazines are fully aware of the exhibition through numerous letters and phone calls. STOREFRONT anticipates at least three reviews from those publications.

Outside America, our contacts are limited with publications. Please discuss this exhibition with editors in your country and ask them to contact STOREFRONT.



Glenn Weiss

ADAM'S HOUSE IN PARADISE
Lower East Side, Manhattan

Exhibition: September 13 - October 6

Adam's House in Paradise: Lower East Side, Manhattan


Project's for Low-income housing which
preserve the Garden of Eden by Adam Purple

Participating Architects (As of July 25, 1984)

Batey/Mack	San Francisco
Lebbeus Woods	New York
James Wines	New York
Uttam Jain	Bombay, India
Morphosis	Los Angeles
Eric Owen Moss	Los Angeles
Bart Prince	Albuquerque, N.M.
Mary Pepchinski	New York
Bausman/Gill	New York
David DeValeria	New York
Dan Coma	New York/Rumania
Scofidio/Diller	New York
Marek Walzhek	New York/England
Demetrius Daneuselis	New York/Greece
Furniture Club	New York

Curators: Glenn Weiss
Kyong Park
212/431-5795

Location: Storefront for Art and Architecture
51 Prince Street
New York, NY



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Storefront for Art and Architecture

https://archive.org/details/198409_adamshous00stor

STOREFRONT

Art and Architecture
51 Prince, New York, NY 10012

Kyong Park/Glenn Weiss 212-431-5795

ADAM'S HOUSE IN PARADISE

Lower East Side, New York City

September 13 — October 7

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Gallery Exhibition:

STOREFRONT
51 Prince St., NYC 10012
Press Preview by Appointment
Kyong Park/Glenn Weiss
212-431-5795

Reception:
Sept. 13, 6-9 PM

Hours:
Tues. - Sun, 11-7 PM

Site Exhibition:

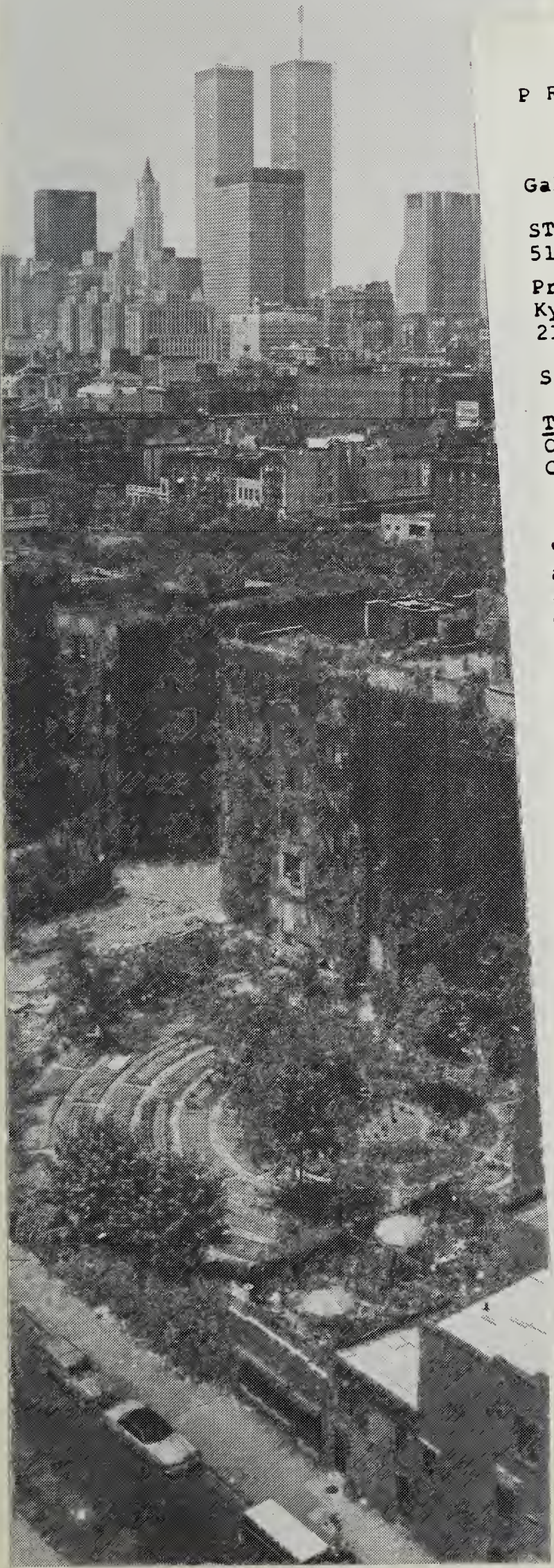
The Garden of Eden
On Eldridge St. between Stanton and Rivington
Continuous viewing & Discussion w/artist

"Adam's House in Paradise", an exhibition with accompanying catalogue, reverses tradition in the artist/architect relation by presenting architecture created to the demands of art: The Garden of Eden by Adam Purple. Thirty internationally acclaimed and emerging architects from New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Albuquerque - London, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, Bombay and Transylvania have designed two city blocks of public housing around The Garden of Eden in Manhattan's Lower East Side. The original drawings and models will be on view at STOREFRONT - a five minute walk from The Garden of Eden.

Adam Purple's five year pictorial history, displayed at STOREFRONT, depicts the expansion of The Garden of Eden into the sites of previously demolished tenements. The remaining debris of bricks, lintels and rubble became the foundation of the garden while Purple bicycled materials for top soil from Central Park. (See September 1984 issue of "National Geographic") His legendary persistence and imagination has brought international stature to this garden: a work of public art which has been critically compared with great French and Japanese gardens and with environmental artists like Robert Smithson. The Garden of Eden is always on view.

The impetus for this exhibition comes from New York City Housing Authority's plan to construct a public housing project on the site of The Garden of Eden. The current plans call for the destruction of the garden by January 1, 1985. Rather than ignore this valuable anomaly to existing urban plans, the architects in this exhibition have accepted the challenge of Purple's earthwork to create an architecture of equal vision.

The catalogue, published by STOREFRONT, presents reflection upon the urban values surrounding public art, neighborhood gardens, housing and the myth of neutrality in professional architectural and artistic activities. These issues will be addressed through the writings of Fredrick Ted Castle, Lucy Lippard, Patricia Phillips, Richard Plunz, Adam Purple and Kyong Park/Glenn Weiss and through the photography of Sarah Drury.



STOREFRONT

ADAM'S HOUSE IN PARADISE

Lebbeus Woods
 Harry Wolf
 Walczak/Standing
 Shin Takamatsu
 Alison Smithson
 SITE
 Scofidio/Diller
 Pat Sapinsley
 Bart Prince
 Mary Pepchinski
 Kyong Park
 Eric Owen Moss
 Morphosis
 David Mohney
 James McCullar Assoc.

New York, NY
 New York, NY
 London, England
 Kyoto, Japan
 London, England
 New York, NY
 New York, NY
 New York, NY
 Albuquerque, NM
 New York, NY
 New York, NY
 Santa Monica, CA
 Los Angeles, CA
 New York, NY
 New York, NY

Demetrius Manouselis
 Bill Lane
 Uttam Jain
 Toyo Ito
 Osamu Ishiyama
 Zvi Hecker
 Furniture Club
 David DeValeria
 Neil Denari
 Dan Coma
 Bausman/Gill
 Batey/Mack
 Balch/Baratloo
 Anderson/Wheelwright
 Adam Purple/Pavlova/Saunders

New York, NY
 New York, NY
 Bombay, India
 Tokyo, Japan
 Tokyo, Japan
 Tel Aviv, Israel
 New York, NY
 New York, NY
 New York, NY
 Transylvania, Romania
 New York, NY
 San Francisco, CA
 New York, NY
 New York, NY
 New York, NY



